



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

means to promote the further development of the peace movement, and to secure the active coöperation of those who are interested in the maintenance of peace but have not as yet taken any part in its advocacy.

### Brevities.

. . . Another important speech was made by Baron d'Estournelles de Constant in the French Senate on July 2 on the subject of armaments, in which he showed once more that even from the standpoint of effectual national defense the French government was making a grave mistake in adding big ships so rapidly to the navy.

. . . The president of the Danish Group of the Interparliamentary Union, Mr. N. Neergaard, has been appointed Minister of Finance in the Danish government.

. . . One of our California friends writes: "There has been considerable reaction shown in newspapers of California since the fleet went away, and I note many references to the cost and to the waste of it all. Before the fleet arrived there was none of this point of view. I like to think that my San Francisco friend was right, and that the splurge over the coming of the fleet was due to expectations of increase of business and a good time — 'to a pleasure-loving people.'"

. . . The *Christian Register* (Boston) says: "Every great navy, tuned up to the highest fighting pitch, is a challenge to all other strong nations to produce navies of equal capacity. The more navies we have prepared to go off at a touch, at the behest of an excitable nation, the greater the danger that war will break out."

. . . Augustine Jones of Newton Highlands, Mass., in a recent letter to the *Boston Advertiser*, calls attention to a most important utterance of Lafayette at the Fourth of July celebration in Paris in 1833, the year before he died. Finishing a speech in broken English, he said, in referring to the war of American Independence, in which he had taken part: "Public common sense — may it hereafter always be the arbiter of all difficulties." Commenting upon these memorable words, Mr. Jones says: "We ought to cherish and observe his closing benediction upon the United States. Settle your difficulties by 'public common sense,' and in arbitration and courts give the 'common sense' expression forever."

. . . Ex-Congressman Joseph A. Conry, of the ninth Massachusetts District, in seeking the Democratic nomination for Congress, condemns his opponent, John A. Keliher, the present Congressman from the District, because he voted against the bill to build four battleships. He asks him to explain to the men of Charlestown his attitude on the subject, declares that "increased naval appropriations would mean increased labor for Charlestown," and promises that, "if elected to Congress, the keel of a battleship will be laid in the Charlestown navy yard before the expiration of his (my) term of service." Mr. Keliher will have no difficulty in explaining his vote on the battleships to the men of Charlestown, who are sensible enough to know that what is bad for the country at large cannot in the long run be good for Charlestown, and Mr. Conry will doubtless be allowed to spend another Congressional term in reflection at home.

. . . At the Free Trade Congress in London, in August, Winston Churchill, President of the Board of Trade, said, among other things: "Whereas in war both parties lose, whoever wins in commerce, out of every peaceful transaction there is an advantage for both parties. Every transaction that takes place upon an equitable basis renders a fresh transaction possible. Every exchange that takes place between nations renders another exchange possible. If exchange is multiplied goodwill is increased, and there is an increased international security."

. . . The international conference on tuberculosis, which opened at Philadelphia on the 24th of September, was made up of experts from seventeen countries. The "white plague" slays its tens of thousands every year, and the coöperation of the different nations in the effort to abolish it is work of the highest order. But they will probably find it far more difficult to abolish this plague than to abolish war. The latter is an evil purely of men's creation, and whenever they will they can put an end to it.

. . . On the 15th of September, before the opening of the Interparliamentary Conference at Berlin, the American group of the Interparliamentary Union presented a peace flag to the German group, at a public meeting held in the Reichstag building. In making the presentation Mr. Bartholdt, president of the American group, said that the giving of the flag was a visible sign of the esteem and friendship of the American group, and a prophecy of lasting peace between the two countries. Mr. Eickhoff, chairman of the Reichstag delegation, in accepting the flag, gave utterance to similar feelings of goodwill.

. . . The *Commonweal*, formerly the *Australian Herald*, published at Melbourne, Australia, in its August issue expresses the hope that before long an interstate peace congress may be possible in Australia. Interest in the peace movement is developing not very rapidly but steadily and surely in Australia.

. . . A cable dispatch from Melbourne, on September 24, stated that the British Admiralty had given its approval to the scheme of the Australian Commonwealth for the formation of a flotilla of six torpedo-boat destroyers, nine submarines, and two depot ships as the nucleus of an Australian navy. The Parliament is expected to vote over six millions of dollars for the construction of this flotilla. The same dispatch says that "the idea of building up a local navy was given a great impetus by the recent visit of the American battlefleet." Of course it was!

. . . On September 15, Minister Wu Ting Fang called at the State Department and informed Acting Secretary Adee that the Chinese government had authorized him to sign a general arbitration treaty between the United States and China.

. . . The International Bureau of the Central American Republics was formally opened at Guatemala City on Saturday, the 26th of September. The purpose of the governments is, through the Bureau, to make uniform the civil, commercial and criminal legislation of the five signatory republics, to establish a uniform customs and monetary system, and to work for the general development of commerce and industry.

. . . In his reply to the note of the Netherlands government in regard to the dismissal of the Dutch Minister de Reus, President Castro of Venezuela declares that the action of Venezuela was entirely personal against de Reus, who was not considered a competent medium for maintaining friendship between the two countries. It was not intended to loosen the ties of friendship between the two countries, which friendship Venezuela desired cordially to maintain.

### The Causes of the Russo-Japanese War.

Under the title of "A Royal Family's War," the London *Daily News* of September 17 comments as follows upon the revelations made in the chapter of Kuropatkin's Memoirs, translated by George Kennan, published in the September number of *McClure's Magazine*:

Every one has long known that the terrible war between Russia and Japan was largely due to a timber concession. To ordinary, sensible people it may have seemed incredible that an immense struggle should arise between two great nations, and involve the extermination of thousands on thousands of innocent and ignorant men on both sides, simply because the members of a royal family wanted to make money by selling wood. But it was, as we say, well known, even at the beginning of the war, that this kingly ambition had a good deal to do with the slaughter.

The chapter of General Kuropatkin's Memoirs which appears in this month's number of *McClure's Magazine* more than confirms the common knowledge. We had known that a royal family's greed played a considerable part in the horrible business; we now know that it was the moving cause, and that but for the greed of the St. Petersburg Court circle the war would never have occurred. The facts up to the point of the Czar's own complicity in the affair are perfectly simple. Ten years ago a Russian company promoter named Breiner obtained a timber concession on the Yalu from the Korean government. Being unable to make much of it himself, he passed it on to a more persuasive promoter named Bezobrazoff, who appears as the evil genius of the piece. His eloquence induced the Grand Dukes, probably Plehve, and possibly the Dowager Empress and the Czar himself, to invest large sums in the timber concession, and the general knowledge that he was supported by the Court soon made him dictator of Russia's policy in the Far East. As late as three months before the war began, he in Port Arthur received a telegram from St. Petersburg saying that the Czar expressed full confidence in him. In the meantime he had begun the disastrous policy that led to Russia's overwhelming defeat by checking the evacuation of Manchuria, which the Czar had solemnly promised to China in 1902. He had overridden the serious advice, not only of Kuropatkin, the Minister of War, of Lamsdorff, the Foreign Minister, and of Witte, at that time Minister of Finance, but of all three assembled in conclave together to point out to the Czar the extreme danger of the course that was being pursued. It is true that the Czar admitted in his peculiar way that war with Japan was "extremely undesirable." That was one of his characteristic utterances, as when against an account of the importation of revolutionary arms he wrote: "Bad

business." But nothing was done to check the financial intrigue. The singularly incompetent Admiral Alexeieff was appointed Viceroy of the Far East to support the scheme. Witte was given another office, Kuropatkin resigned, the insolent challenges to Japan on Korean territory continued, and war began.

Kuropatkin himself comes out of the affair best. In the long and disastrous campaign that followed he always maintained the reputation of a straightforward and honorable soldier, struggling against hopeless odds. He now shows that from the first he had known the odds were hopeless. While still Minister of War, he visited Japan to test the public opinion and readiness of the country, and he saw enough to justify a strong warning to the Czar. He knew the Russian unreadiness and the weakness of the Russian position owing to the temptation to hold Port Arthur and Dalny at the end of a long railway through a foreigner's country. He laid his report on these matters before the Czar and his Ministers, but his representations were disregarded. The Court was intoxicated with greed. The Grand Dukes had visions of immense fortunes made in timber. The Czar expressed the fullest confidence in Bezobrazoff. Blinded by the lust for wealth, the royal family would listen to no advice. To them, in spite of Kuropatkin's warnings, the Japanese were only "yellow monkeys," nor would they believe in his accounts of their country's entire unpreparedness for war, though they, if any one, ought to have been aware how shameful it was. Their one thought was to grasp the promised money, and, in the face of every prudent counsel, the methods of the company for occupying Korean territory were violently carried on. Kuropatkin says that in the summer before war began, Bezobrazoff urged him to concentrate seventy thousand men in Southern Manchuria, to send a party of soldiers dressed as civilians into Korea, and to organize a brigade of Manchurian brigands. After Kuropatkin's resignation, similar absurdities were continued till the reality of war put an end to the silliness and the Grand Ducal speculation at the same time.

In old days kings used to expose their faithful subjects to slaughter and incalculable suffering for some question of dynasty. Should this man or his rival sit on a throne? Should a relation of Charles reign in Madrid, or a relation of Louis? Should Francis go to Milan, or another Charles? Those were issues for which they did not hesitate to have thousands of men killed, lands devastated, families ruined, and the hard-earned savings of the people blown away in smoke. Kings have made wars also to compel other people to hold the same belief about the Prince of Peace as they did. Such motives for the wholesale destruction of lives may seem a little insufficient or absurd, but still they are sometimes capable of a certain grandeur and self-sacrifice in interpretation, or even of a Quixotic devotion to an ideal of divine truth. But deliberately to bring about one of the most terrific wars of history in order that a worthless set of royal relations hanging about a Court may handle a little more gold than they had before is a development that may suit a commercial age, but adds a new shame to the history of mankind. These kinsmen of the Czar appear to have felt no compunction or pity as they pursued the course that was inevitably to bring terrible forms of death to uncounted peasants and workmen whom they compelled to fight